



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

El Paso VA Health Care System  
5001 N Piedras, El Paso, TX 79930

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **El Paso VA Promotes Firearm Safety with Free Locks**

*The El Paso VA will distribute thousands of Project Childsafe® Gun Locks to Veterans and their families free of charge*

EL PASO, TX – The El Paso VA Health Care System is promoting safe gun practices by distributing thousands of Project Childsafe® gun locks to Veterans and their family members.

“Our mission is to keep our Veterans and their families safe and healthy,” said Joan Ricard, Director of the El Paso VA. “These locks are one more tool in accomplishing that goal.”

The Project Childsafe® safety kits include a cable lock designed to prohibit unauthorized individuals, including children, from operating the firearm. The locks come with safety tips and instructions on how to use the lock with different types of firearms.

Medical providers point out that the locks can also be used as a suicide prevention tool. “Suicide is often a very impulsive act,” said Dr. Homer LeMar, El Paso VA Chief of Staff. “These locks add an extra step and could prevent a suicide from happening.” Veterans experiencing thoughts of suicide are urged to seek help and call the crisis helpline at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

Veterans who are interested in receiving gun locks for their personal use can see a member of the El Paso VA security team at any of the three El Paso VA locations:

El Paso VA Health Care Clinic  
5001 N Piedras  
El Paso, TX 79930

Eastside El Paso VA Clinic  
2400 Trawood Drive, Suite 200  
El Paso, TX 79936

Las Cruces VA Clinic  
1635 Don Roser  
Las Cruces, NM 88011

The El Paso VA Health Care System serves Veterans in far Southwest Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The El Paso VA Health Care System includes the main health care facility in El Paso, TX, and two VA-staffed Community Based Outpatient Clinics – one in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the second in east El Paso. The VAHCS provides primary and specialized ambulatory care services at its main campus with consultants and fee-basis specialists supplementing the medical staff.

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